

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:19-cv-01744-KBJ**

HELMER v. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Assigned to: Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 06/14/2019  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**JOHN HELMER**  
*Professor*

represented by **Maria Temkin**  
TEMKIN & ASSOCIATES, LLC  
1700 Market Street  
Suite 1005  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 939-4181  
Email: [maria@temkinlegal.com](mailto:maria@temkinlegal.com)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

represented by **Brenda A. Gonzalez**  
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**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Damon William Taaffe**  
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**TERMINATED: 01/16/2020**

**Michael A. Tilghman**  
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**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
06/14/2019	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against JOHN HELMER <i>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE</i> ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-6190093) filed by JOHN HELMER. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B, # <u>3</u> Exhibit C, # <u>4</u> Exhibit D, # <u>5</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>6</u> Summons)(Temkin, Maria) (Entered: 06/14/2019)
06/17/2019		Case Assigned to Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. (zef, ) (Entered: 06/17/2019)

06/17/2019	<u>2</u>	SUMMONS (1) Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zef, ) (Entered: 06/17/2019)
06/18/2019	<u>3</u>	ERRATA <i>Complaint</i> by JOHN HELMER <u>1</u> Complaint, filed by JOHN HELMER. (Temkin, Maria) (Entered: 06/18/2019)
06/26/2019	<u>4</u>	REQUEST to Issue Summons <i>to U.S. Attorney General</i> by JOHN HELMER (Temkin, Maria) Modified on 6/26/2019 to correct docket text (zjf). (Entered: 06/26/2019)
06/26/2019	<u>5</u>	REQUEST to Issue Summons <i>to U.S. Attorney's Office for D.C.</i> by JOHN HELMER (Temkin, Maria) Modified on 6/26/2019 to correct docket text (jf). (Entered: 06/26/2019)
06/26/2019	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 6/24/2019 (Temkin, Maria) (Entered: 06/26/2019)
06/28/2019	<u>7</u>	SUMMONS (2) Issued Electronically as to U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (jf) (Entered: 06/28/2019)
07/08/2019	<u>8</u>	GENERAL ORDER AND GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO FOIA CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON. The Court will hold the parties and counsel responsible for following these directives, and parties and counsel should pay particular attention to the Court's instructions for processing and production of records, batching motions, and filing exhibits. Failure to adhere to this Order may, when appropriate, result the imposition of sanctions and/or sua sponte denial of non-conforming motions. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 7/8/2019. (lckbj1) (Entered: 07/08/2019)
07/12/2019	<u>9</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Damon William Taaffe on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 07/12/2019)
07/17/2019	<u>10</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 07/09/2019. (Temkin, Maria) (Entered: 07/17/2019)
07/17/2019	<u>11</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 7/9/2019. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 8/8/2019. (Temkin, Maria) (Entered: 07/17/2019)
07/17/2019	<u>12</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 7/10/2019 (Temkin, Maria) (Entered: 07/17/2019)
08/07/2019	<u>13</u>	NOTICE of Intent to Answer <i>Complaint</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE re <u>1</u> Complaint, <u>8</u> Order,, (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 08/07/2019)
08/09/2019	<u>14</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 08/09/2019)
08/09/2019		MINUTE ORDER. Before the Court in this FOIA case are a complaint and an answer. It is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall review this Court's <u>8</u> General Order and Guidelines Applicable to FOIA Cases, and promptly confer and file a joint proposed schedule for disclosure or briefing motions for summary judgment, on or before 8/23/2019. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 8/9/2019. (lckbj1) (Entered: 08/09/2019)
08/21/2019	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by JOHN HELMER. (Temkin, Maria) (Entered: 08/21/2019)
08/22/2019		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>15</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 10/15/2019, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 8/22/2019. (lckbj1) (Entered: 08/22/2019)
10/15/2019	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 10/15/2019)

10/21/2019		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>16</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 1/15/2020, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 10/21/2019. (jag) (Entered: 10/21/2019)
01/15/2020	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 01/15/2020)
01/16/2020	<u>18</u>	NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL by Brenda A. Gonzalez on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE Substituting for attorney Damon Taaffe (Gonzalez, Brenda) (Entered: 01/16/2020)
01/24/2020		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>17</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 2/28/2020, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 1/24/2020. (jag) (Entered: 01/24/2020)
02/27/2020	<u>19</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Gonzalez, Brenda) (Entered: 02/27/2020)
02/27/2020		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>19</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 4/13/2020, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 2/27/2020. (jag) (Entered: 02/27/2020)
04/13/2020	<u>20</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Gonzalez, Brenda) (Entered: 04/13/2020)
04/16/2020		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>20</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 5/28/2020, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 4/16/2020. (jag) (Entered: 04/16/2020)
05/28/2020	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Gonzalez, Brenda) (Entered: 05/28/2020)
06/10/2020		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>21</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 6/29/2020, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 6/10/2020. (jag) (Entered: 06/10/2020)
06/29/2020	<u>22</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Michael A. Tilghman on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Tilghman, Michael) (Entered: 06/29/2020)
06/29/2020	<u>23</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Tilghman, Michael) (Entered: 06/29/2020)
06/30/2020		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>23</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 7/29/2020, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 6/30/2020. (jag) (Entered: 06/30/2020)